

NSC BRIEFING

5 March 1957

INDONESIA

I.
25X1C

[REDACTED], in face continuing fragmentation, President Sukarno has apparently agreed to bar Communists from any new cabinet.

A. Sukarno, however, still wants Communists to have place on his proposed "National Council," which he now states would be only "advisory".

II. 2 March bloodless coup in East Indonesia followed almost same pattern as December Sumatran revolt.

A. Lt. Col. Samual, E. Indonesian territorial commander, proclaimed state of war and siege throughout his vast area (pop. 15 million), Samual demanded greater autonomy, better economic treatment by central government, and removal Ali cabinet.

B. Action in East Indonesia followed recent contacts between Lt. Col. Hussein (coup leader in Central Sumatra) and local councils both in East Indonesia and Borneo (which may be next area to defect).

1. Samual is strongly opposed to entry of Communists into Gov't.

C. Col. Samual may have considerable trouble retaining control over wide range of islands comprising East Indonesia.

1. Col. Sudirman, who holds special anti-dissident command in strategic South Celebes, takes his orders from Djakarta.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

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2. Sudirman, former commander East Java, is known to favor strong central government, is strongly pro-Sukarno.
- III. Moslems and several minor parties continue oppose Sukarno's "concept" and former Vice President Hatta--next most influential Indonesian figure--has finally taken public stand.
 - A. Said on 2 March that Sukarno's concept of national unity was a "view of a dream world" and would only produce further conflict.
 - B. Pointed out Communists could not conduct independent policy, since they were part of an international movement.
- IV. Central Sumatran leaders also taking strong stand against Sukarno "concept".
 - A. They have invited Hatta to come to conference on 6 March.
 - B. Central Sumatran group also trying to get more arms, develop own trade outlets.
 1. Agents have approached US and British officials in Singapore in this connection, indicated growing sentiment to establish independent Sumatra.
- V. President Sukarno still working for mass support, and role for Communists in administration.
 - A. Told Amb. Cumming that Commies should be brought to "Indonesian family table" so could convince them to be Indonesians first and to break any ties "they might have" with Moscow and Peiping.

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NSC BRIEFING

5 March 1957

INDONESIA

- I. Sukarno now willing compromise--bar Communists from any new cabinet.
 - A. However, still wants Commies in "National Advisory Council."
- II. 2 March revolt in East Indonesia much like Sumatra's in Dec.
 - A. Territorial commander calling for more autonomy, better economic break, removal Ali Cabinet.
 - B. Borneo may be next to defect.
- III. Moslems, several minor parties continue to oppose Sukarno's "concept."
 - A. Hatta finally voicing opposition publicly: says Communists, as part of international movement, unable conduct independent policy.
- IV. Central Sumatran leaders also strongly against Sukarno "concept."
 - A. Have invited Hatta to conference 6 March.
 - B. Also trying to get more arms, develop own trade outlets: agents from Sumatra approaching US, British officials in Singapore.
- V. Meanwhile, Sukarno still working for mass backing and support of role for Commies.
 - A. Told Amb. Cumming the Commies should be brought to "Indonesian family table," talked out of "possible" ties with Moscow, Peiping.

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